STANDARD BIBLE STORY READERS

LILLIE A. FARIS

BOOK THREE

This Book Belongs to
Charles O'Neal

Presented

to

Charles O' Neal

for

perfect attendance for one year

at

Rockport Methodist

Sunday School

Mrs. W. E. Coleman Sept. 24, '44.

Standard Bible Story Readers

BOOK THREE
(THE SECOND READER)

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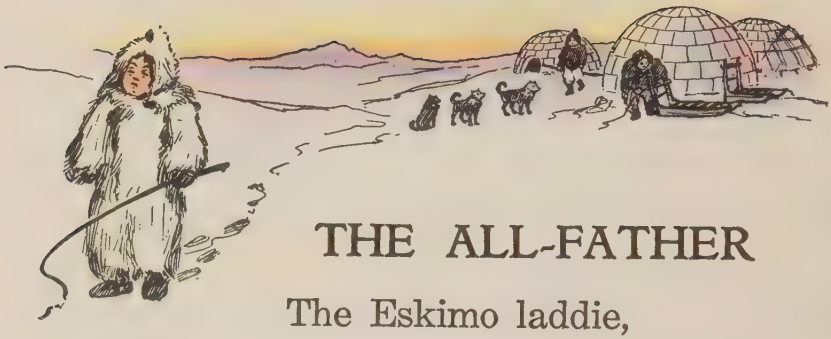
A CHILD'S PRAYER

"God, make my life a little light
Within the world to glow,
A little flame that burneth bright
Wherever I may go.
God, make my life a little song
That comforteth the sad,
That helpeth others to be strong,
And makes the singer glad.

"God, make my life a little staff
Whereon the weak may rest,
That so what health and strength I have
May serve my neighbor best.
God, make my life a little hymn
Of tenderness and praise,
Of faith that never waxeth dim
In all His wond rous ways."



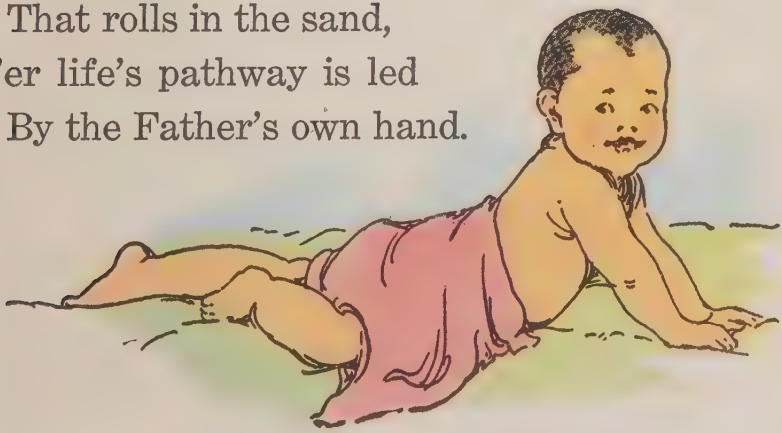
THE ALL-FATHER

The Eskimo laddie,
  Whose house is of snow,
Is loved by the Father
  In heaven, we know.

The happy Swiss maiden,
  On mountain so high,
Is guarded and kept
  'Neath His own watchful eye.

The dear little Indian,
With brown hands and face,
Is kept from all harm
By His wonderful grace.

The little dark baby,
That rolls in the sand,
O'er life's pathway is led
By the Father's own hand.



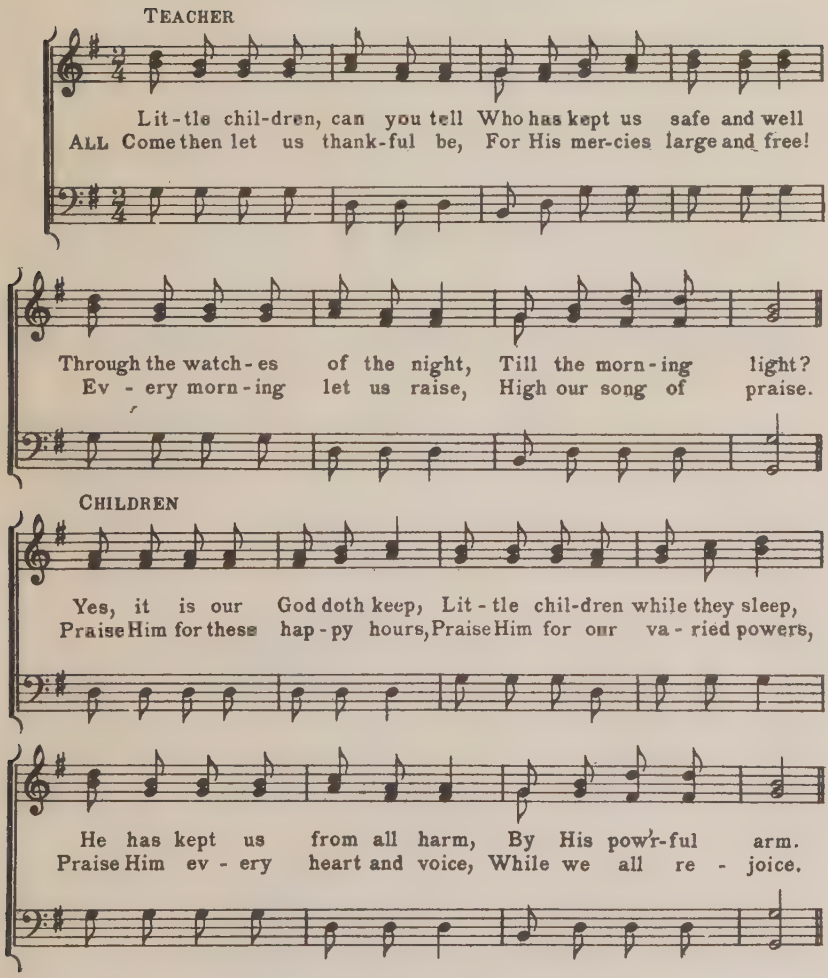
Our little friend Gretchen,
With small, wooden shoe,
Is loved by the Father
The same as are you.

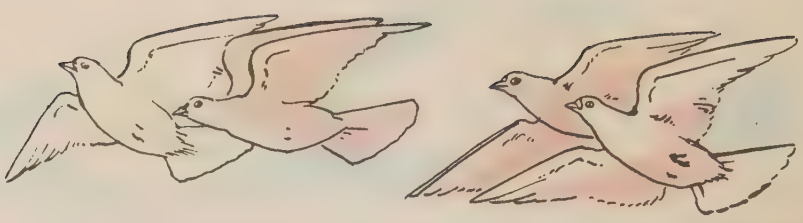
Out on the desert,
Within the dark tent,
His watch o'er the Arab
Is lovingly bent.

And away over yonder,
Across the blue sea,
Is another He loves,
His name is Yong Wie.

The gracious All Father
Looks down from above
On all little children,
And sends them His love.

GOD'S CARE


TEACHER
Lit-tle chil-dren, can you tell Who has kept us safe and well
ALL Come then let us thank-ful be, For His mer-cies large and free!
Through the watch-es of the night, Till the morn-ing light?
Ev - ery morn-ing let us raise, High our song of praise.
CHILDREN
Yes, it is our God doth keep, Lit-tle chil-dren while they sleep,
Praise Him for these hap-py hours, Praise Him for our va-ried powers,
He has kept us from all harm, By His pow'r-ful arm.
Praise Him ev - ery heart and voice, While we all re - joice.



GRANDMA

This is my dear old grandma
Sitting in her old arm-chair;
Her face and hands are wrinkled
And snow white is her hair.

I love to stand beside her
And help her shell the peas;
And then I say, "O Grandma,
Tell me a story, please."

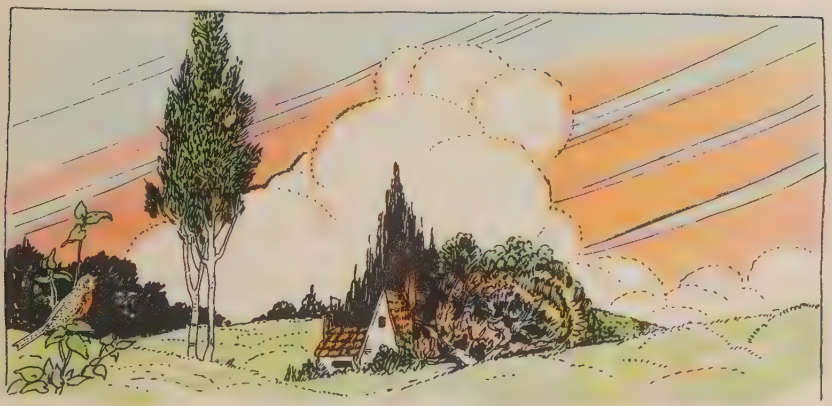
She tells about the Indians,
And fairies and the rest;
Then at last she comes to one
She knows I like the best.

About Jesus and the children—
The little ones like me;
How He put His arms around them,
And held them on His knee.

She tells me how He loved them;
That He told grown folks to be
As good as little children,
If they would His kingdom see.

And when I think how much He loves
The little ones like me,
I promise Him that I'll be good
As He would have me be.

Safe am I, for God doth keep
Watch while little children sleep.



GOD, THE CREATOR OF ALL THINGS

When you look at the beautiful blue sky do you ever wonder how it came to be as it is?

Do you ever wonder about the great, round sun that gives us such a bright light, and makes the earth so warm that plants will grow?

Do you ever watch the stars at night-time and wonder how many there are of them?

And have you wondered when you saw the moon coming up, how it happened to look like a little boat part of the time and like a great, silver ball at other times?

Somebody must have loved you dearly to make all these things for you.

Then, there are the birds and the many bright-colored flowers, all for you.

Many, many years ago God planned that He would make the world. He planned how He would make the sun to shine by day

and the moon and the stars to shine by night.

In that long-ago time no one lived on the earth; there was not a creature of any kind.

God made the earth and the water. He put the water into the great seas. There was no light, it was all darkness.

Then God said, "Let there be light," and the most wonderful light you can think of came over the earth; it made the water look all beautiful and shining.

God was pleased with the light that came when He spoke, and He divided the light from the darkness. He said, "The light shall be called day and the darkness night."

After that God made many other things, and each one was just the way He wanted it to be. He said, "Let the earth put forth grass," and the grass began to grow.

Then He said, "Let the earth put forth fruit-trees bearing fruit." And this was so. All things began growing and God the Father was pleased.

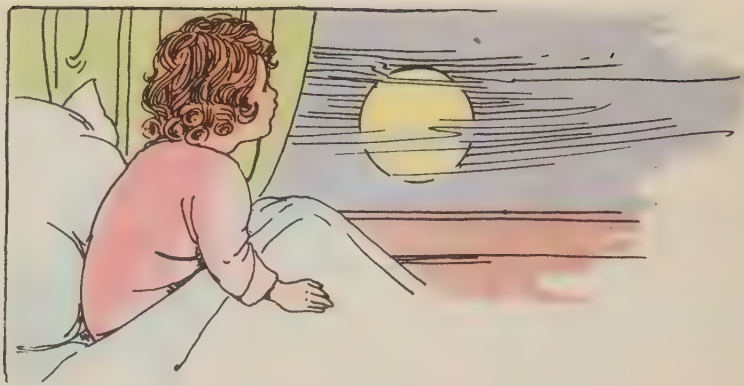
God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let the birds fly above the earth in the open firmament of the heaven."

Then the sea became full of fishes and sea monsters, and the air was filled with birds.

After He had created the fishes and the birds God created animals and creeping things.

God said, "I will make man in my own image." He took clay and made man and breathed into man the breath of life.

After awhile He made woman to be man's helpmeet. He put them in a beautiful garden and told them they should live there as long as they obeyed His laws.



GOD SEES

When I run about all day,
When I kneel at night to pray,
God sees, God sees.

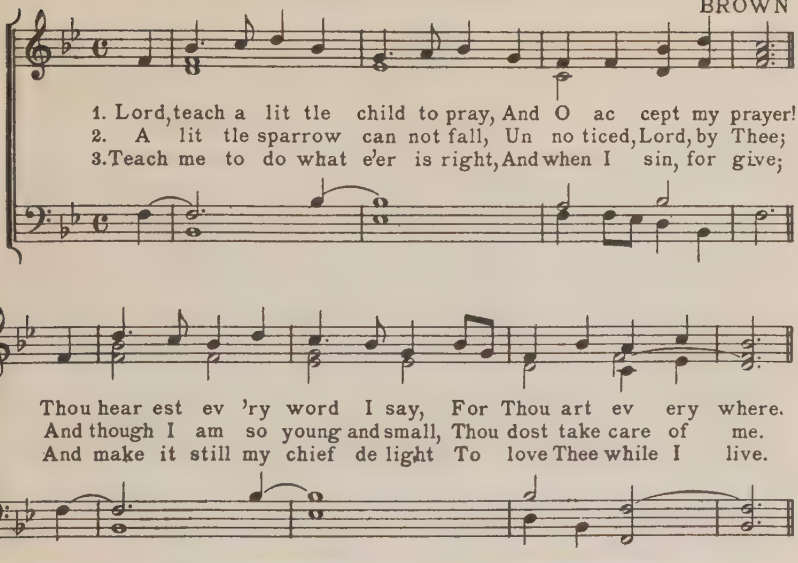
When I'm dreaming in the dark,
When I lie awake and hark,
God sees, God sees.

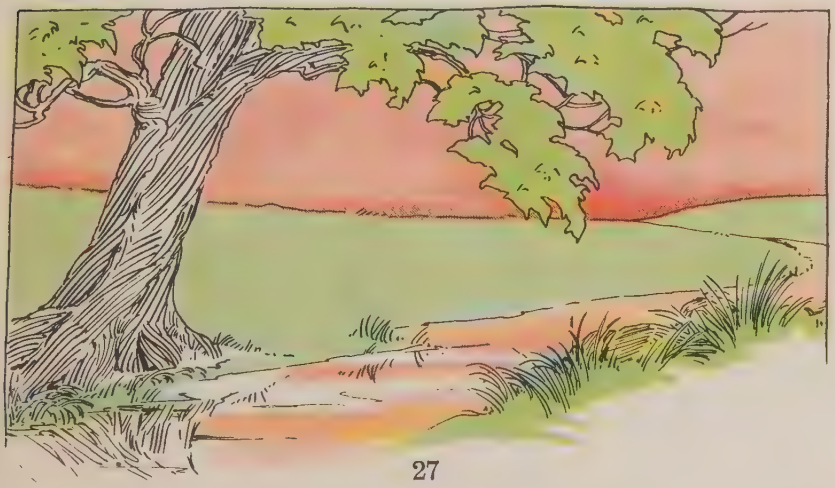
Need I ever know a fear?
Night and day my Father's near.
God sees, God sees.

—*Mary Mapes Dodge.*

A CHILD'S PRAYER

BROWN


1. Lord, teach a lit tle child to pray, And O ac cept my prayer!
2. A lit tle sparrow can not fall, Un no ticed, Lord, by Thee;
3. Teach me to do what e'er is right, And when I sin, for give;
Thou hear est ev 'ry word I say, For Thou art ev ery where.
And though I am so young and small, Thou dost take care of me.
And make it still my chief de light To love Thee while I live.



THE GIFT OF WATER

"He sendeth forth springs
into the valleys;
They run among the mountains;
They give drink to every beast
of the field.
By them the birds of the heavens
have their habitation;
They sing among the branches.
He watereth the mountains
from his chambers;
The earth is filled with the fruit
of thy works.
He causeth the grass to grow
for the cattle,
And herb for the service of man;
That he may bring forth food
out of the earth."

—Ps. 104: 10-14.

"Sing unto Jehovah with thanksgiving;
Sing praises upon the harp unto our God,
Who covereth the heavens with clouds,
Who prepareth rain for the earth,
Who maketh grass to grow
upon the mountains.
He giveth to the beast his food,
And to the young ravens which cry."

—Ps. 147: 7- 9.

"Thou visitest the earth and waterest it,
Thou greatly enrichest it;
The river of God is full of water:
Thou providest them grain, when thou hast
so prepared the earth.
Thou waterest its furrows abundantly;
Thou settlest the ridges thereof:
Thou makest it soft with showers.

—Ps. 66: 9, 10.

NOAH PLEASING GOD

God was troubled when He looked down on the earth and saw that His people were becoming wicked.

He had made the beautiful garden and placed the man and the woman there; He had wanted them to be very happy, and He gave them everything that He could think of to make them so.

They were happy, but they did something that the Father told them not to do, and He said to them, "You have disobeyed me. You can not stay in my garden; you will have to go."

The Father in heaven was sorry, but He had told them what would happen if they did wrong.

After a long time there were many people on the earth, but they did not live as God

wished them to; they did not try to do right.

The Father in heaven looked down on these people. He looked everywhere, and there was just one good man. His name was Noah.

God planned to take away all the wickedness, and to start the world over again.

God loved Noah, and told him that if he would build an ark he should be saved from the great flood which He was going to send on the earth.

God told Noah just how to build the ark; how wide it should be, how long it should be, and the kind of wood to use.

He told Noah that the ark must be very strong, because it would have to be in the water many days.

The ark needed to be very large, too. God said

it must be five hundred feet long and eighty feet wide and three stories high. He wanted it large enough to hold all kinds of animals.

Noah and his sons worked a long, long time building the ark, and they tried to make it just as God wished them to.

Many people made fun of Noah. They thought he was very foolish.

After the ark was finished, Noah took into it all kinds of birds and animals and everything just as God had told him to do.

Then he and his wife and his sons and their wives went into it. God shut the door of the great ark and it began to rain.

The rain did not stop for forty days and nights. The whole earth was covered with water; the ark floated high on top of it.

Noah and his family were not afraid, because

they trusted God and they knew that God would take care of them.

It seemed that it would never stop raining; but after awhile it did, and the water began to go away.

Noah took a dove in his hand and carried it to the window. He let the dove fly out, but she soon came back, because there was no place for her to rest.

After seven days Noah let the dove out again; this time when she came back she had a leaf in her bill. That meant the waters were going down.

When Noah sent the dove again she did not return; then he knew that it was safe to go out of the ark.

All of Noah's family were very happy. They built an altar and thanked God for His care.

While they were thanking God, He spoke to Noah and told him that never again should the earth be destroyed by water.

As they looked up into the clouds a beautiful bow of colors stretched across the sky. The colors were so clear and bright. There were red, orange, yellow, green, blue and violet—all the colors of the rainbow—and God said, "This is my bow of promise."

You will want to read the very words that God said. Here they are: "I do set my bow in the cloud, and it is a token of a covenant between me and the earth, and it shall come to pass when I bring a cloud over the earth that the bow shall be seen in the cloud."

Maybe you will think of this when you see the next rainbow.

THE STORY OF A GREAT LADDER

Long ago there was a man to whom God made a beautiful promise. The man's name was Abraham, and God's promise to him was this:

"Abraham, I will give you all this country for your own, and you shall be the father of a great nation. The time will come when everybody on earth will be blessed because of you."

Abraham did not quite understand, because he was an old man when the promise came. However, he did not doubt it, because God's promises are always sure.

After a time a little son came to his home. Abraham named him Isaac.

Isaac grew to be a great, strong man like his father. He married a beautiful woman,

and by and by two baby boys came to their home.

The little babies were twins; one of them was named Esau and the other one Jacob.

The two boys grew to be strong men, and one day Jacob did something that was wrong. His brother Esau was very angry. The mother knew all about their trouble, and she was afraid that Esau might hurt Jacob.

She thought the best thing to do would be to send Jacob away for awhile until Esau felt better.

She called Jacob to her and said:

"Jacob, go over to my brother Laban's home and stay until Esau's anger is gone. Your Uncle Laban will be glad to have you, and when Esau gets over his angry feelings I will send for you to come back."

Jacob went in to tell his father good-by. Isaac was old and blind. He could not see his son, but he put his hands on Jacob's head and blessed him. Then Jacob went away.

It was a long, long journey to his Uncle Laban's house, and Jacob was all alone. He went just as fast as he could, and after awhile the sun went down. He began to feel very tired, and thought he would find a place to rest. He looked around and found a nice place where there was a stone that would do for a pillow, then he lay down to sleep.

Jacob lay there thinking of his old, blind father; he thought of his mother, too, and of Esau; he thought, "I wonder if Esau will ever forgive me for wronging him."

By this time darkness was all around him. It seemed so lonely! One by one the stars came into the sky, and as they twinkled he lay watching them. At last he fell asleep.

While he slept he had a dream. Such a beautiful dream! It seemed to him that there was a great ladder reaching from earth to heaven, and he saw many angels on the ladder; some of them were going up and some were coming down. God Himself was at the very top of the ladder and He gave Jacob a great promise.

Here are some of the things which God said to Jacob at that time: "I am Jehovah, the God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac; the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it and to thy seed. And behold, I am with thee and will keep thee. I will bring thee again to this land, for I will not leave thee."

When Jacob awakened, he said, "Surely God is in this place, and this is the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

Very early in the morning when Jacob arose from his bed, he took the stone that had been his pillow and put it up for an altar. He poured oil upon it. He did this because he wanted to remember just the spot where God had come to him. And he wanted the altar there so that he could always worship God at that place. Jacob named the place Bethel.

Jacob made a vow to himself. He said: "If God be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, and Jehovah will be my God, then this stone which I have set up for a pillar shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee."

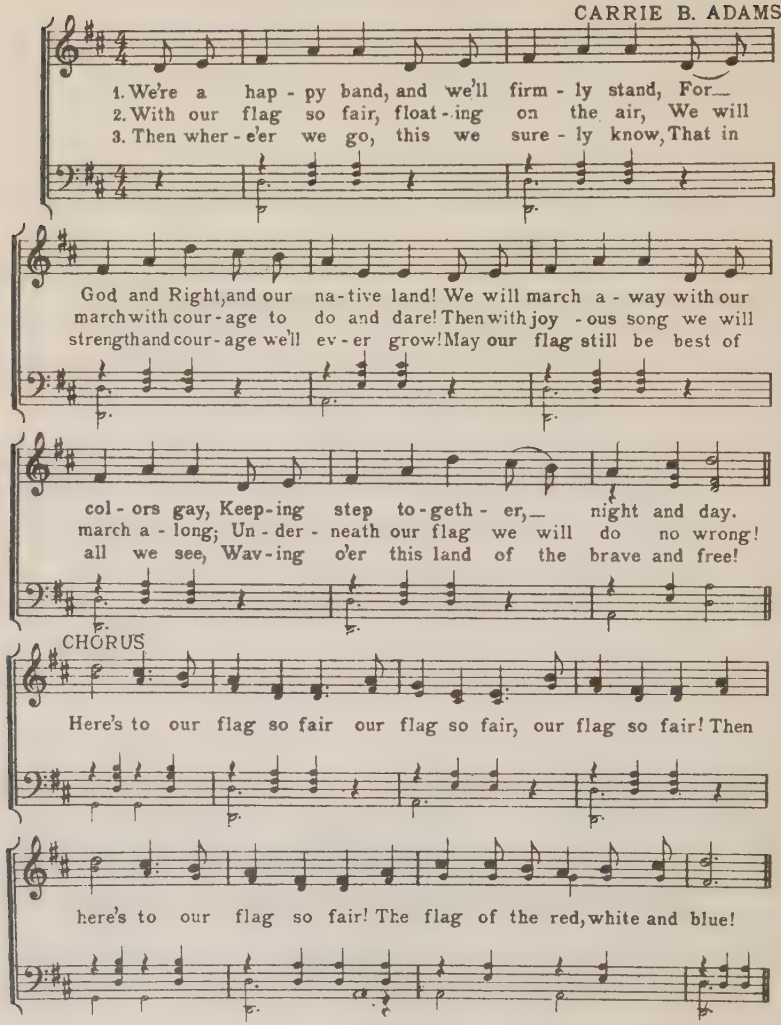
Jacob went on to his Uncle Laban's home and lived there for many years. It was a long, long time before he went back to his old home, but after many years he did go back and his brother Esau was glad to welcome him.

When Jacob and his family went back to the old home, Esau and four hundred men went out to meet him.

At first Jacob was afraid when he saw so many people with Esau. He hardly knew what Esau might do, but Esau ran and put his arms around Jacob and kissed him, then they were all happy.

OUR FLAG

CARRIE B. ADAMS


1. We're a hap - py band, and we'll firm - ly stand, For—
2. With our flag so fair, float - ing on the air, We will
3. Then wher - e'er we go, this we sure - ly know, That in
God and Right, and our na - tive land! We will march a - way with our
march with cour - age to do and dare! Then with joy - ous song we will
strength and cour - age we'll ev - er grow! May our flag still be best of
col - ors gay, Keep - ing step to - geth - er,— night and day.
march a - long; Un - der - neath our flag we will do no wrong!
all we see, Wav - ing o'er this land of the brave and free!
CHORUS
Here's to our flag so fair our flag so fair, our flag so fair! Then
here's to our flag so fair! The flag of the red, white and blue!

I give my hand and my heart to my

coun-try: One coun-try, one flag, one God.

A DREAM COMES TRUE

Many, many years after Jacob had seen in his dream the wonderful ladder which reached from earth to sky, there came into his home a little baby boy.

There were ten other boys older than this one; some of them were grown to manhood. They took care of their father's flocks and herds, and these were great, because Jacob was very rich.

The little boy was named Joseph. He cried and laughed and played and grew just as babies always do, until he was quite a big boy. Joseph's father was very fond of him, and made a beautiful coat for him to wear.

Sometimes Joseph would go out to the fields where his brothers were watching the flocks and talk to them. Sometimes he

had strange dreams, and he would tell them about these dreams.

The brothers did not like to hear of Joseph's dreams, because it always seemed to them that he thought himself greater than they were, and it made them feel jealous.

They disliked Joseph so much that they could not even speak nicely to him.

One night Joseph dreamed that he and his brothers were binding sheaves of grain in the field, and that his sheaf was the only one that stood up straight, and that all the others bowed to it.

That made his brothers very angry. They said, "Shalt thou indeed reign over us?"

After that time the brothers kept watch so that they could punish Joseph in some way.

One day, after his father had sent him to hunt them, they planned to get rid of him.

They watched their chance and sold him to a company of travelers that were going into a far country.

In order to make their father believe that Joseph was dead, they killed a goat and dipped his coat in its blood. Then they carried the coat to their father and showed it to him. The poor old man mourned

many years because he thought Joseph was dead.

Do you suppose that Joseph was glad to go with the travelers into the new country? Or do you think he might have been thinking of his old father back at home?

After he reached the new country he was sold as a slave to an officer of the king's army, and not so long after that he was put in prison because of a wicked lie the officer's wife told about him.

Everybody in the prison loved Joseph; he was allowed to go around with the other prisoners and talk to them, and, best of all, while he was there God was with him all the time.

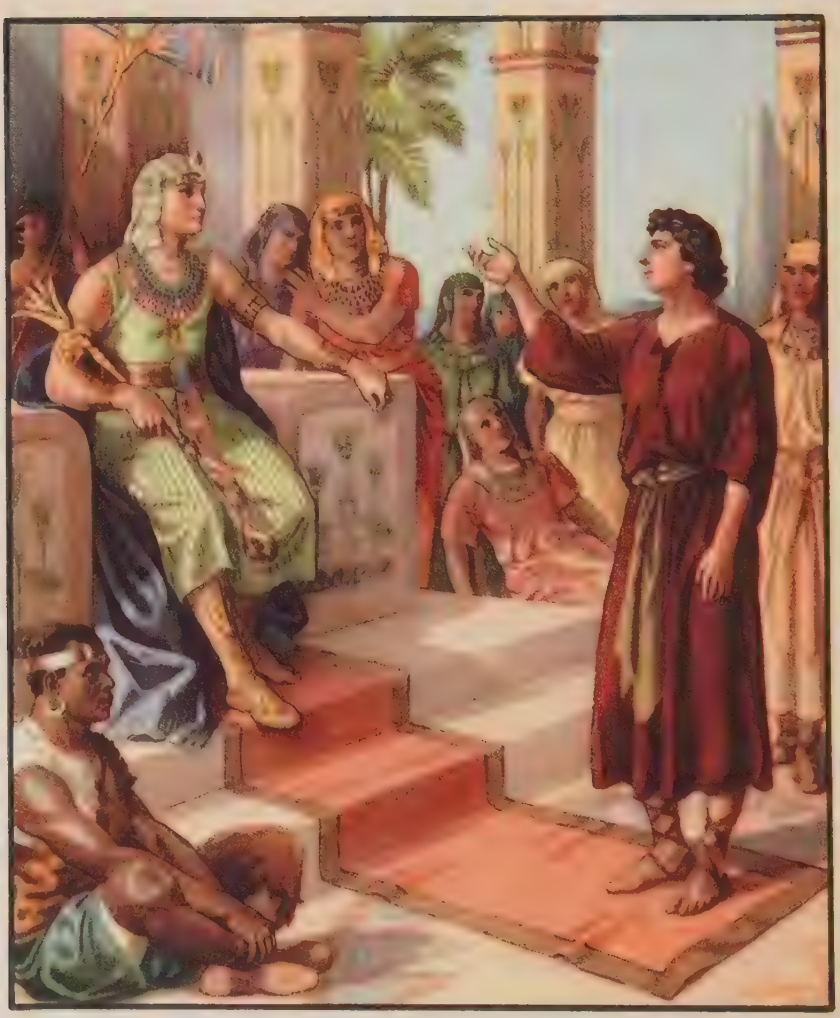
Whenever the prisoners had strange dreams they would send for Joseph to tell them what the dreams meant, and he could do

it, too, for God had given him that wonderful power.

One day, after the king had had a dream, he sent for Joseph to tell him its meaning. Joseph went to the king's palace and told him the dream meant that there were going to be seven years when everything would grow and the crops would be plentiful; then there would be a famine of seven years, and all the people that did not save all they could would have to go without food.

The king asked Joseph what he should do. Joseph said, "Build great barns and storehouses and store away just as much corn as you can for the years of famine."

Then the king asked Joseph's help. He said, "I have none so wise in all my kingdom." Then he said to Joseph, "Thou shalt be



over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled."

The king took off his beautiful signet ring and put it upon Joseph's hand; he put a gold chain about Joseph's neck and dressed him in the finest clothes. Then he gave him a wonderful chariot in which to ride, and as Joseph went along the people cried, "Bow the knee."

Joseph went through all the country helping the men to store the great crops of corn so that there might be food when the famine came.

It was many years after this that a famine, back at the old home where Jacob and his sons lived, drove them to the land of Egypt to buy food.

When the brothers came to buy corn Joseph knew them, but they did not know him.

Joseph's brothers had to come a second time to buy corn, and then the king told him to have them come and live with him.

The king was very glad when he heard Joseph's father was coming to that country; he was very glad when Joseph took his old father by the hand and brought him into the king's court. The king asked Jacob how old he was, and Jacob said, "I am a hundred and thirty years." Then he lifted up his old hands and blessed the king. And the king gave Joseph the most wonderful place for his father and brothers that they might make their homes.

Joseph's ten older brothers and one younger, Benjamin, who was just a little fellow when Joseph was sold, all lived in the land of Egypt with him, and for many years they were very happy.

A SORROWING MOTHER MADE HAPPY

In the country where Jesus lived there is a little village called Shunem.

Many years ago there lived in that little village a woman who was very great.

She and her husband were happy, for they had everything they needed to make them so.

No, there was one thing they did not have—there was no little child in their home, and they wanted a little son so badly.

Many times one of God's great helpers came along that way.

The man's name was Elisha, and his servant, Gehazi, was always with him.

The woman saw Elisha pass her house often, and one day she invited him to stay for dinner.

After that Elisha and his servant often stopped to eat with the man and his wife, and they had many pleasant visits together.

One day the woman said to her husband: "This man passes here so often, and I am sure he is a good man, going about doing God's work. He has nowhere to stay; let us make a little room for him and let us put a table, and a bed and a chair, and a candlestick in it. Then when he comes this way he may just go in when he wants to and rest."

Soon the little room was finished and Elisha and his servant were very glad indeed to stop and rest awhile.

Elisha looked all around the room, and it was such a pleasant one that he said to Gehazi, "Call the Shunammite."

The woman came and Elisha told his servant to thank her for all her care. He said: "Is there anything we can do for you? You have been very careful for us. Would you have me speak to the king for you?"

But the woman made Elisha understand that she would rather live very quietly there in Shunem than to have the king do anything for her. She said: "I would rather stay right here among my own people."

The servant said to Elisha: "There is only one thing these people need to make them very happy, and that is a child."

The good man asked God to send a little son to that home, and, sure enough, God answered the prayer.

After awhile the boy had grown big enough to run about in the fields, and one day he

went out where his father and the men were at work in the harvest.

All at once he began to cry, "Oh, father, my head! my head!" And the father said to a servant, "Carry him to his mother."

The little boy sat on his mother's knee until noon. She tried to make the poor head quit aching, but it would not, and the poor sick boy died in her arms.

The mother hardly knew what to do, but she carried the little boy up to Elisha's room and laid him on the couch. Then she shut the door and went out of the room. She went right to her husband and asked him to send a servant to her with a mule.

Her husband asked her what was the matter, but she did not tell him. She got on the mule and started to go to Elisha's home twelve miles away.

She said to the servant: "Drive just as fast as you can, and do not stop until I tell you."

When they came in sight of Elisha's home he saw them coming, and said to his servant: "Yonder is the Shunammite; run and meet her, and ask her if everything is all right."

The servant ran to meet the woman and said to her: "Is it well with thee? Is it well with thy husband? Is it well with the child?"

The woman answered him very quickly and hurried on past him to Elisha. She fell on the ground at Elisha's feet, and when she spoke of her little boy he knew that something had happened.

Then Elisha gave his staff to his servant and told him to hurry on and to go to the room where the child was lying and place the staff on the face of the child.

The woman did not want to go back without Elisha. Somehow she felt that he could do more for her boy than his servant could, and she begged him to help her.

They all started for the village of Shunem. The servant who had gone on before did just what Elisha told him to, but the little boy did not move when the staff was placed on his face.

The servant went back to Elisha and said, "The child is not awakened." Then Elisha went on to the house and upstairs to his own room. He closed the door and prayed to God.

Soon the child opened his eyes and Elisha asked his servant to tell the Shunammite to come. When she came to the room he said, "Take up thy son." And she fell down at Elisha's feet and thanked him.

MY THANKSGIVING

Dear Father, for the bright blue sky,
For fleecy clouds that sail so high,
For beauteous birds that sing and fly,
I bow my head and thank Thee.

For pretty flowers that bloom for me,
For pink-white blossoms on the tree,
For every lovely thing I see,
I bow my head and thank Thee.

For sun that makes the day so bright,
For moon and stars that shine at night,
For dew and rain and snow so white,
I bow my head and thank Thee.

For all that makes my life so fair,
For mother's love and daddy's care,
For all the kind friends everywhere,
I bow my head and thank Thee.

A LITTLE PRISONER AND A GREAT CAPTAIN

A very dear little, dark-eyed girl once lived in the city of Jerusalem. She was always very happy, and loved to see others happy too.

The father and mother were very proud of their little girl because she was so good and kind.

She had a dear grandmother and grandfather, and she was always doing things to help them. They, too, loved this little girl.

One time there was a great war, and the soldiers of a heathen country took many of the people prisoners. The little girl was one of the prisoners.

She hardly knew what to do, for it seemed so strange to leave her old home. She did

not like to be sorry, but she could not help it.

The soldiers took her to a new country and she became a slave.

The captain of the soldiers wanted some one to help his wife, and our little girl went to live in his home.

The captain's name was Naaman, and he was very great, but he was not well; he was sick with a dreadful disease called leprosy.

Naaman's people were all sorry that he had the leprosy, for they loved him. They did not dare to go near him, for it is not safe to touch any one who has leprosy.

There was not a doctor in all the country where Naaman lived that could cure him.

Naaman's wife and all his people tried to think of something that would help him, but they could not find anything.

The little slavegirl noticed that the great captain's wife looked sad. This made her feel sorry, for she did not like to see any one look sad. Then some one told her that her master Naaman would never be well again.

Then the little girl began to think. She thought about her old home and a great prophet that lived in her country. She had heard many times about the things which Elisha had done, and she thought that if Captain Naaman would only go to her country he could be cured of his leprosy.

One day the little girl went in to wait on Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress: "I would that my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria. He could cure him of his leprosy."

Naaman's wife talked to the little girl, then she sent a message to her husband.

Naaman was glad to do anything that would cure him, and he began at once to get ready to go to the little slavegirl's country. The great captain thought it would be nice to take some presents to the prophet Elisha.

He gathered together great loads of beautiful things, for Naaman was very rich. At last they started out, and after a long journey reached Elisha's country and went before the king.

At first the king did not know what to do. He said, "How can I cure a man of leprosy?" Then some one told the king to send for Elisha, and the king was very glad to do so.

This is the word Elisha sent to the king: "Let

the man come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."

Naaman went and stood at the door of Elisha's home. Then the prophet sent this message: "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times and thy flesh shall come again, and thou shalt be clean."

At first Naaman did not want to do this. He thought Elisha was making fun of him, but one of his servants said: "Now, master, if he had told you to do some great thing you would have done it. Why don't you try this little thing that he has asked?"

The servants went with Naaman down to the river Jordan. He went into the water and dipped into it one, two, three times; —his flesh was just the same as it had been before.

What do you suppose would have happened if Naaman had stopped after he had gone down into the water only three times? But he did not stop; he went under seven times just as Elisha had told him to, and when he came up the last time his flesh was as clean and pure as that of a little child.

And the captain could not thank Elisha enough for healing him. He wanted to give Elisha many costly gifts, but Elisha would not take them.

He was a very happy captain as he started back to his home in Syria. He was glad now that his servant had begged him to obey Elisha.

His people were all very happy, too, but no one was happier than the little slavegirl who had told him about God's prophet.

THE GOLDEN RULE

"Children, do you love each other,
Are you always kind and true?
Do you always do to others
As you'd have them do to you?"

SILENT NIGHT

"Silent night! peaceful night!
All things sleep, shepherds keep
Watch on Bethlehem's silent hill;
And unseen, while all is still,
Angels watch above.

"Bright the star shines afar,
Guiding travelers on their way;
Who their gold and incense bring,
Offerings to the promised King,
Child of David's line.

"Light around! joyous sound!
Angel voices wake the air;
Glory be to God in heaven,
Peace on earth to you is given;
Lo! the Christ is born!"

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold Wise-men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, Where is He that is born King of the Jews? for we saw His star in the east, and are come to worship Him.

And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ should be born.

And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written through the prophet,

And thou Bethlehem, land of Judah,
Art in no wise least among the princes of Judah:
For out of thee shall come forth a governor,
Who shall be shepherd of my people Israel.

Then Herod privily called the Wise-men and learned of them exactly what time the star appeared.

And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search out exactly concerning the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word, that I also may come and worship him.

And they, having heard the king, went their way; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came

and stood over where the young child was.

And when they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

And they came into the house and saw the young child with Mary his mother; and they fell down and worshipped Him; and opening their treasures they offered unto Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they de-

parted into their own country another way.

An angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise and take the young child and His mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I tell thee: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

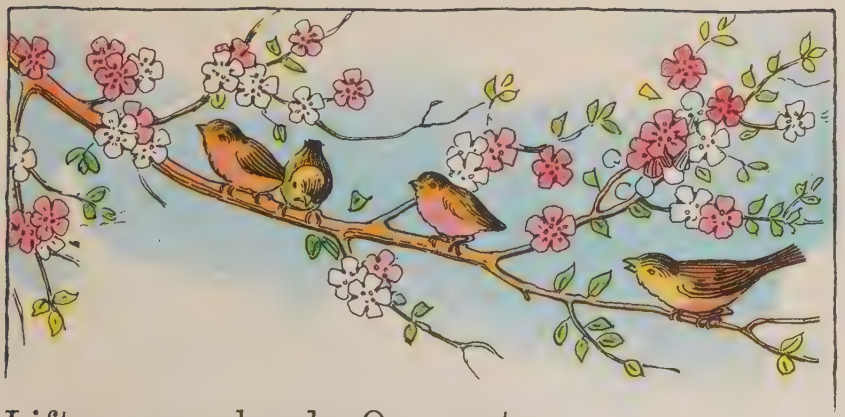
And he arose and took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt.

. . . . . .

But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying,

Arise and take the young child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead that sought the young child's life.

And he arose and took the young child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.—Matt. 2: 1-14, 19-21.



Lift up your heads, O ye gates;
And be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors:
And the King of glory will come in.
Who is the King of glory?
Jehovah strong and mighty,
Jehovah mighty in battle.
Lift up your heads, O ye gates;
Yea, lift them up, ye everlasting doors:
And the King of glory will come in.
Who is this King of glory?
Jehovah of hosts,
He is the King of glory. —Ps. 24: 7-10.

BLESSED CHRISTMAS

The sweetest day of all the year,
Is blessed, blessed Christmas;
To all the little children dear,
'Tis blessed, blessed Christmas.

'Twas then the Christ Child came
to earth,
At blessed, blessed Christmas;
And still we hail His holy birth,
At blessed, blessed Christmas.

And so we deck our homes to-day,
For blessed, blessed Christmas;
We'll love and honor Him alway;
For blessed, blessed Christmas.

IN HIS FATHER'S HOUSE

And his parents went every year to Jerusalem at the feast of the passover.

And when he was twelve years old, they went up after the custom of the feast;

And when they had fulfilled the days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and his parents knew it not;

But supposing him to be in the company, they went a day's journey; and they sought for him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance;

And when they found him not, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking for him.

And it came to pass, after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the

midst of the teachers, both hearing them and asking them questions:

And all that heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

And when they saw him, they were astonished; and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I sought thee sorrowing.

And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? knew ye not that I must be in my Father's house?

And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

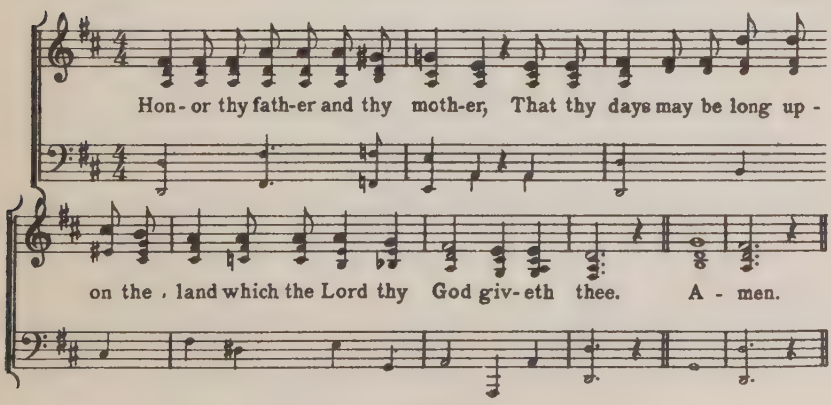
And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth; and he was subject unto them: and his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

And Jesus advanced in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

—Luke 2: 41-52.

HONOR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER

CARRIE B. ADAMS



A SCHOOL IN A PALACE

Perhaps you will think it strange for a king's palace to be used as a school, but once there were four boys who lived in a king's palace and had their lessons there.

A long time ago there was a little baby boy born in the city of Jerusalem. His father and mother were good people who tried to do everything in a way that pleased God.

The little boy's name was Daniel.

By and by, as Daniel grew older, his mother and father taught him many things that he needed to know.

They taught him to do right and to be strong and brave no matter what might happen.

One time Daniel's people were taken captive by the king of another country. They

were marched away ever so far to a city called Babylon.

It must have been a very sad time when the people had to march away from their old homes.

There were many boys and girls who had to leave the old home in Jerusalem, and they were very sad.

There were three other boys who went with Daniel.

These boys were strong and fine like Daniel.

One day the king ordered that the captive boys should come before him. He wanted to see if he could find some good helpers.

When the boys came before the king he looked at them and thought they were fine looking.

One of the king's stewards came to take care of the boys.

The king said to him: "Feed these boys with the very best food. Give them the same kind of food I eat, and give them wine to drink so that they may become fair."

Daniel and the three boys that were with him decided they would not drink the king's wine, and they told the servant they did not want that kind of food.

The servant said: "Oh, but I must give you this, because the king has ordered it. What shall I say to him when we go up before him, if he finds that you have not had this kind of food?"

Daniel and the boys said: "Oh, please, let us go ten days without eating the king's food or drinking his wine, and we will show you that we are just as strong as the other boys. Give us plain food to eat, and water to drink. Try us for ten days."

The steward decided that he would try the boys for ten days, and told them that he would not make them eat what they did not want.

At the end of ten days he called the boys before him, and found that Daniel and his three friends were stronger and fairer in every way than the other boys.

Then the steward decided that he would not ask the boys to eat the king's food and drink his wine; he would just give them plain food.

It was the steward's business to keep the boys for three years and teach them how to serve the king.

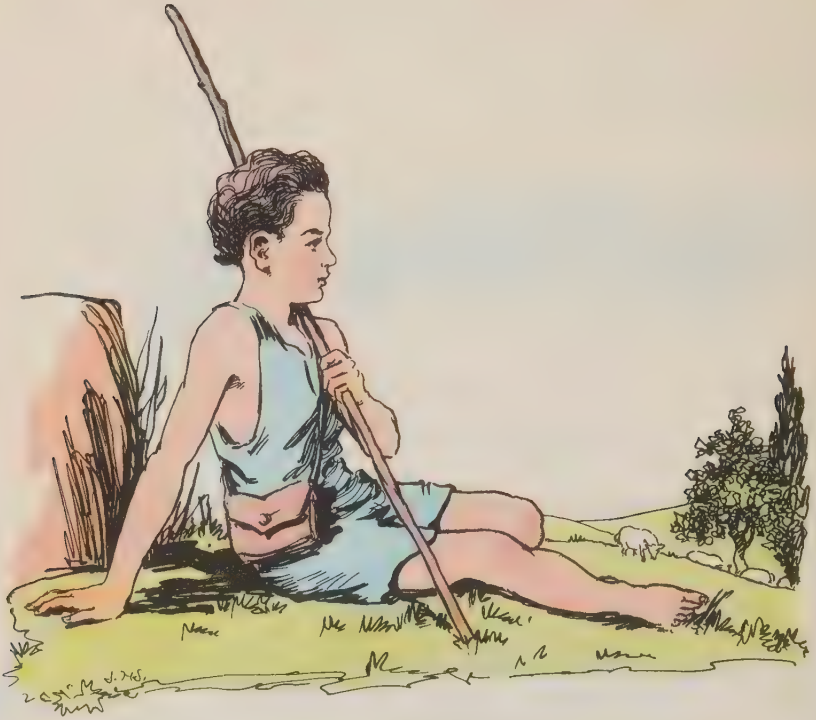
God blessed these boys and helped them to understand more than the others.

When the boys were called before the king, he was delighted with them and asked

them to stay in his palace and be his helpers.

Some day, perhaps, you will hear a story about Daniel as he told the king the meaning of a dream. For God had given Daniel great power and had blessed him in a very wonderful way.

These boys all learned their lessons well in the king's palace.



A BOY AND A GIANT

There is a little town called Bethlehem near the city of Jerusalem.

Many years before Jesus was born a shepherd lad lived in this town.

The boy's name was David, and he was a fine, sturdy lad who loved to take care of his father's sheep.

In that far eastern country the people did not have fences to keep the stock in any one pasture, but the flocks of sheep and the herds of cattle wandered about from field to field down in the valley or upon the hillside, and the shepherds watched them all the time.

The shepherds were very careful to lead their sheep where the grass was fresh and green.

They were very careful to take them where the waters were clear and quiet, for they knew that their sheep did not like the rushing, roaring water, and they were just as kind to them as if they had been people instead of animals.

Very early in the morning David would leave his father's house and go out to the sheepfold.

He would call the sheep and they would follow him as he led the way.

Sometimes he would stop and take a little lamb up in his arms and carry it over the rougher part of the way. Then he would put it gently down by its mother's side.

David would always look for the freshest, greenest spot for his sheep, and he would sit down upon a big rock or upon a grassy hillside and watch the sheep as they played about.

Sometimes when the sheep were nibbling the grass, and David knew they were quite safe, he would take up his harp and play very softly.

In David's country the boys liked to shoot with

slings. Maybe one of his older brothers made the slingshot for him; maybe he made it for himself.

David used to practice shooting with his slingshot, but he never forgot to take good care of the sheep.

One day, when David was about fifteen or sixteen years old, he was out in the field watching the sheep, and his father sent a servant to tell him to come to the house.

David went up to see what his father wanted and found that he was to go on an errand ten miles away.

He was glad that it was an errand to the king's army, for he wanted so much to see the brothers who were there.

David's father said: "I haven't heard from your brothers for some time, and I am anxious about them; would you be afraid to go to the king's army and find out how they are getting along?"

David said: "No, indeed, father, I am not afraid. I'll be glad to go."

"Well," said the father, "you shall start early in the morning; I want to send some parched corn to the boys, and I have some cheese that I want to send to their captains."

Very early the next morning the camel was

brought to the door, and the presents which David's father, Jesse, had prepared for the boys and their captains were placed upon the camel's back.

The old camel was kneeling down and David climbed upon his back and rode away.

David saw a very beautiful country as he rode along, and he was very happy to be called to do such an errand for his father.

Finally he came to the great king's army.

As he stood up on the hillside looking down he saw a beautiful green valley with a tiny brook flowing through it.

He looked across the valley, and on the other hill he saw another army. That was the army of the heathen people who were trying to take his own king's country.

Then as David looked down the hillside he saw a great, strong man. The man was about

eight feet high, and he was large in every way.

He wore heavy clothing made of metal, and there was a high metal cap on his head.

The old giant had been walking up and down that valley making fun of David's king and his army.

He laughed at them and told them they had no one big enough to fight him. He dared them to send any one.

David stood and listened for just a little minute, then he said, "I would not be afraid to go." He was the very first one that had said he wouldn't be afraid, and everybody was surprised.

Some one went and told the king what David had said, but when the king looked at David he said: "Why, you're just a stripling. I can not let you go."

But David said: "King Saul, one time when I was watching my father's sheep, a lion broke into the flock and caught a little lamb. I ran and caught the lion and killed him. And one day, O king, a bear broke into the flock and was carrying away a little lamb, and I ran after the bear and caught it and killed it."

David looked King Saul right in the eye and said, "King Saul, it was God who delivered me out of the paw of the lion and the bear, and He will deliver me from that man."

King Saul said, "You may go, but you must put on my armor." He took off his metal coat and put it on David. Then he gave David his sword. But it was so heavy and David had not been used to it. He took it off and gave it back to the king.

David started down the hillside with just the

things that he wore as he worked out in the field; he had his sling in a little leather wallet by his side.

As he walked along he stooped by the brookside and picked up five smooth stones and dropped them into the wallet.

David went on to meet the old giant and out came old Goliath to meet David.

When Goliath saw the shepherd's crook in David's hand he laughed loud and long.

He said, "Do you think I am a dog that you come here with a staff in your hands?"

David looked at the old giant and said, "You come to me with a sword and a spear and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of Jehovah of hosts."

Then he took a smooth pebble from the wallet by his side and placed it in the sling. He gave the sling a little whirl around his

head and let the stone go. That little pebble went straight into the forehead of the old giant, and he fell down dead.

The people that were with the old giant saw him fall, and they turned and ran away as fast as they could go.

King Saul's men ran after them and caught many of them.

David the shepherd boy with his sling and a little pebble had saved the king's army.

A PSALM OF DAVID

I will lift up mine eyes unto the mountains:
From whence shall my help come?
My help *cometh* from Jehovah,
Who made heaven and earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved:
He that keepeth thee will not slumber.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel
Will neither slumber nor sleep.
Jehovah is thy keeper:
Jehovah is thy shade upon thy right hand.
The sun shall not smite thee by day,
Nor the moon by night.
Jehovah will keep thee from all evil;
He will keep thy soul.
Jehovah will keep thy going out
and thy coming in
From this time forth and for evermore.

—Ps. 121: 1-8.

KINDNESS TO ANIMALS

Little children, never give
Pain to things that feel and live.
Let the gentle robin come
For the crumbs you save at home;
The little lark goes soaring high
To the bright windows of the sky,
Singing as if 'twere always spring,
And fluttering on an untired wing.
Oh! let him sing his happy song,
Nor do these gentle creatures wrong.

—Unknown.

A PRINCE AND A SHEPHERD

Would you like to hear the story of a prince who loved a shepherd?

King Saul had a son whose name was Jonathan. Everybody called him "Prince Jonathan."

The people loved Prince Jonathan very dearly, not only because he was the king's son, but because he was a very brave soldier.

He was with his father's army out on the hillside the day that David the shepherd killed the giant Goliath.

He had watched David meet Goliath and was glad when he saw David coming back to his father's army.

Prince Jonathan took off his own beautiful coat and put it around David's shoulders. That was his way of thanking David for his brave deed.

It was the finest thing Jonathan could do.

King Saul invited David to go back to his palace, but very soon he grew jealous of David because everybody loved him so dearly.

They honored him and sang songs about him, and that was more than King Saul wanted them to do.

There was one thing that made King Saul very angry, and that was the song the people sang. These are the words they sang about David:

"Saul hath slain his thousands,
And David his ten thousands."

As soon as King Saul heard this he made up his mind that he would take David's life. But David had a good, strong friend in King Saul's own family, and that friend was Jonathan.

He knew that his father was very angry with

David, and he made up his mind that he would help David get away.

Sometimes an evil spirit came over King Saul and he would just sit and mope. The only thing that ever helped him was the music from David's harp.

David would go into the king's room and play such beautiful music that the king would forget his trouble.

One day David went in to play for him and the king drew his sword and threw it at David, but it missed him and hit the wall.

David thought that the king had made a mistake; he did not know that the king was really trying to kill him, and he stayed in the palace.

Jonathan took David out into the field one day away off from the palace and told him what the king was trying to do.

David was afraid to go back to the palace, and Jonathan was afraid for him. He said: "David, you hide out here and I will go back and see how my father feels; if he is very angry I will come back here and let you know.

"This will be my plan: I will shoot some arrows over toward the place where you are, and I will send a boy after the arrows. You must listen to what I say, for, if I tell the boy that the arrows are on this side, you will know father is not going to hurt you.

"If I say to the lad, 'The arrows are beyond you,' then you may be sure that my father is after you and you must get away just as fast as you can."

Jonathan went back and found that his father was still angry.

He took a boy back to the field with him.

David listened carefully. Jonathan shot the arrows. Then he sent the boy after them.

Jonathan called to the boy: "Make speed, haste, stay not." And the boy ran as fast as he could. David heard and knew that he must get away from that place just as quickly as possible.

Finally Jonathan sent the boy back home and David came out from his hiding-place.

The prince and the shepherd put their arms about each other and said good-by.

As Jonathan put his arms around David he said, "David, go in peace." The two good friends kissed each other for the last time. And Jonathan went slowly and sadly back to his home, while David went away off to another part of the country to hide from King Saul.

A KING AND A LAME PRINCE

Many years after David had killed the wicked giant he became the king in place of Saul, who was killed in battle.

Prince Jonathan had been killed too. Before he and David had parted each had promised to be kind to the other's children.

One day King David was thinking of his good friend. He thought how kind that good friend had been to him, and then he remembered what he had promised Jonathan.

He said to himself: "I wonder if Jonathan had any family. If he did, I must keep my promise to love and care for them."

King David knew there was a servant that could tell him all he wanted to know about Jonathan's family.

The old servant's name was Ziba, and David sent for him. When Ziba came to the palace David said to him: "Are there any of Saul's family living that I may help in any way?"

Ziba told David that Jonathan had a son who was lame.

He said: "One day a servant took the little boy up in her arms and was hurrying to take him out of danger, when she let him fall, and he has been lame ever since."

He told David how the nurse had carried the little boy away and hid him for a long time so that no danger would come to him. She had cared for him, and now he had grown to be a man, and he was poor and lame.

It made the king very happy to find that Jonathan had a son who was living.

David sent men to bring the lame prince up to his palace.

When the lame prince came before King David he bowed down at the king's feet.

David said to him: "Fear not, for I will show thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and thou shalt eat bread at my table."

The lame man was very much surprised and pleased to think that the king would notice him. And David was glad because he could help Jonathan's lame son.

King David called the servant again and said: "Ziba, I have given back to Jonathan's son all the land that was his. Now, I want you to take your sons and your servants and go and tend it."

"I will do whatever you tell me to," said Ziba.

And he and his men started right away to take care of the land.

The lame prince came and lived in the palace, and he brought with him his own little son.

King David was more than happy to do something kind for his friend's sake.

HIDING A BOY KING

Once there lived a king who had a large family. There were a good many sons, and every one thought that when the king died, one of his sons would be the king in his place.

There was one son who was just a baby, and your story to-day is about him.

At last the king died, and a very wicked woman wanted to be the queen. She said: "I will be the queen of this country. The king's sons shall be destroyed."

The little baby's aunt heard what this bad woman was planning to do, and she said: "I will not let the wicked woman destroy the baby."

This is what the baby's aunt did: she went right over to the temple and took the baby with her.

She told the officer that lived in the temple about the trouble, and said: "I want to leave this baby here, and some day he shall be the king."

Jehoiada was the good man who took care of the temple, and he was glad to keep the little boy there.

The wicked queen thought the king's sons were all dead and that nobody could take her away from the throne, but she was mistaken. She was very ugly to her people; they did not like her at all.

The little boy in the temple grew older; the good man who took care of the temple loved him dearly.

Joash, for that was the little boy's name, tried to do everything that was right.

One day, when Joash was seven years old, the good man in the temple said, "We will tell

the people that the king's sons are not all dead;" and he sent for some brave soldiers to come to the temple.

When they came the old man said to them: "Here is a little son of the king; we have kept him hidden here so that the wicked queen could not get him. Now it is time for him to be the king. I will bring him out and let you see him."

The men were very happy to know that there was a living king.

They planned with the old man that they would bring great crowds of people and tell them about this little boy king.

At last, one day, great crowds came to the temple. The wicked queen came too, but the men put her out. They put a crown on the head of little Joash, and shouted: "Long live the king! Long live the king!"

A LITTLE MAN WHO WANTED TO SEE JESUS

Whenever Jesus went about the country there was always a crowd of people following Him. They loved to listen to Him.

One time He was in a city called Jericho. He was getting ready to go up to Jerusalem.

Great crowds of people were following, and in the crowd was a man whose name was Zacchæus.

Zacchæus was a very small man. He was so small that he could not see as he stood in the crowd.

He watched the crowd and tried to think of some way to see Jesus. At last he ran ahead of the crowd and climbed up in a sycamore-tree.

Just as the people came under the tree Jesus looked up. He saw Zacchæus. Zacchæus

was glad when he saw Jesus looking up at him, but he was gladder still when Jesus spoke his name.

Jesus said, "Zacchæus, make haste and come down; for to-day I must abide at thy house."

Zacchæus came down right away. He was very happy because Jesus was going to his home.

Some of the people in that crowd did not think very much of Zacchæus. They said he was a bad man.

They did not like it that Jesus was going to his home. But Jesus knew what was going to happen.

He was going to help Zacchæus to be a better man.

Zacchæus had never been so happy in all his life as he was that day. Sometimes he

had not been good. Sometimes he had taken more money from the people than he should.

But to-day the great, good, kind Teacher had come to his home! He would surely never do anything wrong again!

He said to Jesus: "Lord, I am going to give half of my goods to the poor, and if I have ever taken more than I should from any man I will give back four times as much as I took."

Then Jesus knew that Zacchæus was going to be a better man.

That was the reason Jesus went home with him.

THE GREAT TEACHER

When Jesus was about thirty years old He began to teach the people in all the cities and towns wherever He went. Many questions were asked of Him, and His answers were always right.

Many times He would be teaching the people a lesson, and, in order to make it very plain so that all could understand it, He would tell a story.

All kinds of people came to him—rich and poor, great and small. Sometimes the people were very wise, and they would ask questions to try to catch Him, but they never did.

Sometimes people really wanted to know the right things to do, and when they asked Him, He always helped them.

A lawyer one day came to Jesus and asked Him some hard questions. Perhaps he thought Jesus would not be able to answer him. Jesus had been talking about heaven, about how people should live there forever. The lawyer said, "What must I do to live forever?" And Jesus said to him, "What do you read that you must do?"

And the lawyer gave this answer: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself."

Jesus said to the lawyer, "You have answered right; do this and you shall live."

But the lawyer said, "Who is my neighbor?" And Jesus told him a story.

This is not just the way that Jesus told it, but the meaning is the very same, and when

you are a little older you may read His words in your Bible.

He said that there was a man taking a long journey from the city of Jerusalem to a place named Jericho. Away down the road at a lonely place some robbers were hiding because they were sure some one would be passing along the road, and they wanted to take everything they could.

The man started out, and when he came to this lonely place the robbers jumped out and stopped him; they took all his money; they beat him and hurt him very badly; they stripped off his clothes and left him half dead by the roadside.

After awhile a man came by and saw the poor, hurt man lying by the roadside. This man was an officer in the church, and he should have stopped, but he did not.

Another man came by in a little while and saw the man, but he did not stop; he, too, was an officer in the church and should have been glad to help any one in trouble.

It was not long before a third man came by. He was what the people called a Samaritan, because he came from a country called Samaria.

The Samaritans and Jews were not very good friends with each other, but when the Samaritan saw that this man was hurt he said, "Oh, there is somebody who needs my help; I must see what is the matter."

The Samaritan got down from his donkey and ran over to the man. He poured some oil on the wounds and bound them up so that they would get well.

He put the man on his own donkey and took him to a hotel; he paid the hotel-keeper

some money, and said to him, "Take care of this man; and if you spend more money than this, I will repay you."

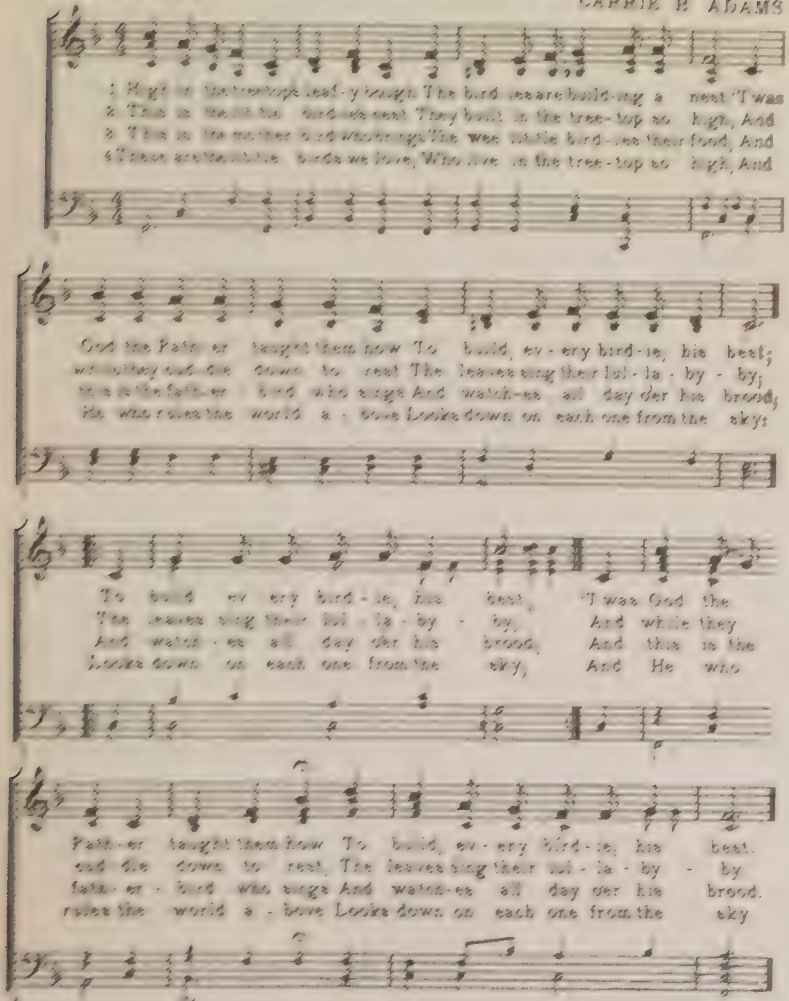
After Jesus had told this story to the lawyer, He said, "Which of these three do you think proved himself neighbor unto him that fell among the robbers?" The lawyer answered, "He that showed mercy."

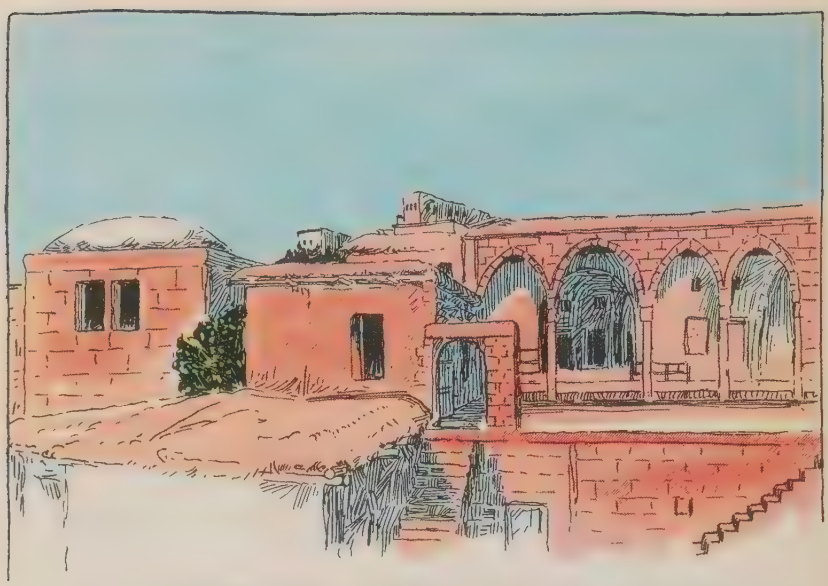
Jesus told the man to go and do the same thing; that is, to help others when they are hurt, or in need of any kind of help.

THE BIRD'S NEST

MRS. E. E. SELBY

CARRIE E. ADAMS


1 High in the tree-top leaf-y bough The bird-ies are build-ing a nest 'Twas
2 This is the bird-ie's nest They built in the tree-top so high, And
3 This is the mother bird who sings The wee little bird-ies their food, And
4 These are the little birds we love, Who live in the tree-top so high, And
God the Fath-er taught them how To build, ev-ery bird-ie, his best;
wh-n they cud-dle down to rest The leaves sing their lul-la-by-by;
is the fath-er bird who sings And watch-es all day der his brood;
He who rules the world a-bove Looks down on each one from the sky:
To build ev-ery bird-ie, his best, 'Twas God the
The leaves sing their lul-la-by, And while they
And watch-es all day der his brood, And this is the
Looks down on each one from the sky, And He who
Fath-er taught them how To build, ev-ery bird-ie, his best.
cud-dle down to rest, The leaves sing their lul-la-by-by
fath-er bird who sings And watch-es all day der his brood.
rules the world a-bove Looks down on each one from the sky



A LOVING GIFT FOR JESUS

Bethany is a little town not so very far from Jerusalem.

Jesus used to love to visit at a home in Bethany where some of His dear friends lived. There were two sisters and a brother in that home. The girls were named Mary and Martha, and the man's name was

Lazarus. The little home was a very happy one.

Whenever Jesus was in or near Jerusalem He would visit this home, and he was always welcome there, for these three friends loved Him dearly, and they were always glad to have Him with them.

One time something very sad happened when Jesus was away on a long journey—the good brother, Lazarus, was taken sick and died.

Mary and Martha sent for Jesus, and when He came they said to Him, "If you had been here our brother would not have died."

Jesus was very sad to see the two sisters weeping, and He was sad about the loss of His friend, but He walked with the two women out to where Lazarus was buried.

When they stood at the tomb of Lazarus, Jesus said, "Lazarus, come forth." And the brother came out of the tomb and walked home with them!

Mary and Martha wanted to show Jesus how much they loved Him and thanked Him for His goodness to them.

One time when he came to their home Martha made a great feast for Him, for she loved to cook and fix nice things for a feast. Many of Jesus' very dear friends were there, and they all sat at the table together.

Mary had planned something else very beautiful. She had saved enough money to buy a whole pound of very costly perfume. She had said to herself, "I will give it all to Jesus." It had taken a great deal of money to buy it.

When Jesus and Lazarus and all the others were seated at the table, Mary went in with the beautiful little box in which she carried the perfume.

She opened it and poured the perfume on His head and on His feet. Then she took her lovely dark hair and wiped the feet of Jesus; she did this to show how much she loved Him.

One of the disciples asked why she had wasted all that precious perfume. But Jesus knew all that was in Mary's heart; He said, "Don't trouble her about it; I am not going to be with you very long, and Mary has done all she could for me before I leave you."

Then He said, "Wherever people tell my story they will also tell about Mary and the beautiful gift which she gave to me."

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AS IT BEGAN TO DAWN

Now late on the sabbath day, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled away the stone, and sat upon it.

His appearance was as lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

And for fear of him the watchers did quake, and became as dead men.

And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye; for I know that ye seek Jesus, who hath been crucified.

He is not here; for he is risen, even as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

And go quickly, and tell his disciples, he is risen from the dead. —Matt. 28: 1-7.